

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 18, 2007 has been read and carefully considered and the present amendment submitted in order to better distinguish the present invention over the cited references.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Frank *et al*, US 2002/011498311. Claims 4, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frank *et al* in view of Negishi, U.S. Patent 6,165,633. Claims 10 -17 have been withdrawn due to an election by Applicant in response to a restriction requirement.

In that Office Action, it was indicated by the Examiner that the recitation of "latching means", while adding further specifics of the connection arrangement, did not distinguish over the prior art on the basis that the word "latch" could include any device where mechanical parts engage to fasten together.

It was suggested that it would be more favorable considered if details of the connection between the patient care apparatus and the transport cart were recited, including the base legs of a special patient care apparatus and the transport cart. As such, claim 1 has now been amended to recite that the patient care apparatus is one having "at least two spaced apart wheels for contacting a floor" and where the transport cart has wheels for contacting a floor. Thus, when the latch means latches the transport cart to the patient care apparatus, the wheels of the transport cart are positioned between the at least two spaced apart wheels of the patient care apparatus to enable the movement of that patient care apparatus "by movement of the transport cart". In effect, by the close latching of the two apparatuses, the movement of the transport cart is pushed to effect the movement of the patient care apparatus.

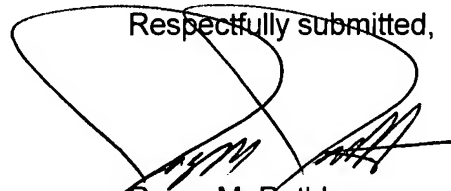
The Frank *et al* reference is directed to a portable fuel cell generator and does not have any interaction between the wheels when the latching is effected. Negishi was cited as a disclosure of a fuel cell, however, in view of the amended independent claims directed

to the physical attachment of a transport cart to a patient care apparatus, it is submitted that the dependent claims are allowable along with the independent base claim.

As such it is believed that the claims, as now presented, are in condition for allowance and an allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Rathbun', is written over the typed name and title.

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